

CLAIMS

1. A package comprising:

an elongated housing; and

a handle-based delatching mechanism fixedly attached to the elongated housing wherein the handle-based delatching mechanism includes a slide fixedly attached to a handle.

2. A package as claimed in claim 1 wherein the handle is fixedly attached to the elongated housing at a pivot point for movement between a closed position and an open position.

3. A package as claimed in claim 2 wherein the elongated housing includes a track for receiving and guiding the slide when the handle is moved between the closed position and the open position.

4. A package as claimed in claim 3 wherein a portion of the slide is positioned in abutting engagement with spring

fingers when the handle is in the open position and the elongated housing is positioned within a rack.

5. A package as claimed in claim 3 wherein the slide is capable of being moved along the track wherein a ramp positioned on the slide engages spring fingers in a rack.

6. A package as claimed in claim 1 wherein an end of the slide mechanically engages the elongated housing when the handle is moved from the closed position to the open position.

7. A package as claimed in claim 3 wherein a portion of the slide disengages spring fingers when the elongated housing is positioned within the rack such that spring fingers fixedly hold the elongated housing in the rack by engaging detents positioned on the elongated housing.

8. A package as claimed in claim 1 wherein the elongated housing can be disengaged from a rack when the slide is mechanically engaged against spring fingers included in the

rack as the handle is moved from the closed position to the open position.

9. An optoelectric package comprising:

an elongated housing with a side and an opposed side;

a first track positioned on the side of the elongated housing and a second track positioned on the opposed side of the elongated housing;

a header mated with the elongated portions of the housing wherein the header includes a pair of openings designed to receive at least one optoelectronic module; and

a handle-based delatching mechanism fixedly attached to the header, wherein the handle-based delatching mechanism includes

a handle fixedly attached to a side and an opposed side of the header; and

a first slide and a second slide fixedly attached to the handle, the first slide being positioned within the first track and the second slide being positioned within the second track.

10. A package as claimed in claim 9 wherein the header includes at least one molded piece.

11. A package as claimed in claim 9 wherein the first slide moves along the first track and the second slide moves along the second track when the handle is moved between a closed position and an open position.

12. A package as claimed in claim 9 wherein a portion of at least one of the first and second slides is in abutting engagement with spring fingers when the handle is in the open position and the elongated housing is positioned within a rack.

13. A package as claimed in claim 9 wherein the first and second slides engage spring fingers in a rack when the handle is moved to the open position.

14. A package as claimed in claim 9 wherein at least one of the handle, slide, and elongated housing includes at least one of a metal and a plastic.

15. A package as claimed in claim 9 wherein the elongated housing can be disengaged from a rack when the first and second slides are cammed against spring fingers included in the rack.

16. A package as claimed in claim 9 wherein the first and second slides include a hook which slidingly engages the elongated housing when the handle is moved from the closed position to the open position.

17. A package as claimed in claim 9 wherein a portion of the first and second slides disengages spring fingers when the elongated housing is positioned within a rack such that spring fingers fixedly hold the elongated housing in the rack by engaging detents positioned on the elongated housing.

18. A method of engaging or disengaging a package from a rack, the method comprising the steps of:

providing an elongated housing;

fixedly attaching a handle-based delatching mechanism to the elongated housing wherein the handle-based delatching mechanism includes a slide fixedly attached to a handle; and

moving the handle between a closed position and an open position wherein a portion of the slide engages or disengages spring fingers positioned on the rack.

19. A method as claimed in claim 18 wherein the step of fixedly attaching the handle-based delatching mechanism to the elongated housing includes a step of fixedly attaching the handle to the elongated housing at a pivot point for movement of the handle between the closed position and the open position.

20. A method as claimed in claim 18 wherein the step of providing the elongated housing includes a step of providing the elongated housing with a track for receiving and guiding

the slide when the handle is moved between the closed position and the open position.

21. A method as claimed in claim 18 wherein the step of moving the handle between the closed position and the open position includes a step of moving the handle from the closed position to the open position such that the slide mechanically engages the elongated housing and the spring finger is disengaged from a detent on the elongated housing.

22. A method as claimed in claim 18 wherein the step of moving the handle between the closed position and the open position includes a step of moving the handle from the open position to the closed position such that the slide mechanically disengages the elongated housing and the spring finger is engaged into a detent on the elongated housing.

23. A method as claimed in claim 18 wherein the step of moving the handle between the closed position and the open position includes a step of engaging the elongated housing mechanically with an end of the slide as the handle is moved from the closed position to the open position